

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-14, 16, 17 and 19-28 remain in the application.

Claims 1-10, 15 and 18 were previously cancelled.

Claims 21 through 28 were previously newly presented.

Claims 16, 19 and 21 are currently amended.

Claims 13, 14, 17, 20, 25 and 26 are currently cancelled.

Claim 29 is newly presented.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 11-14, 16, 17, 20-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Des 369,526 to Colton in view of US Patent 6,644,524 to Garvin.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Des 369,526 to Colton in view of US Patent 6,644,524 to Garvin and further in view of US Patent 5,709,429 to Bergin.

Claims 13, 14, 17, 20, 25 and 26 are currently cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Claims 16 and 21 are currently amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 19, whereby the rejection is overcome.

Claims 11 and 12 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 16.

Claims 22-24, 27 and 28 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 21.

Response To Amendment

In the Office Communication dated September 22, 2005, the Examiner stated that the Applicant's reply filed on July 7, 2005, was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because, although the Applicant generally alleged that the claims define a patentable invention, the allegation was made without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims distinguish them from the references. The Examiner required the Applicant to clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or objections made.

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the Office Action dated April 7, 2005, stated that the Examiner found that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of claim 19 is therefore believed to distinguish over the cited prior art. The subject matter of claim 19 is "a pair of bosses

Serial No. 10/607,938

Amdt. dated September 29, 2005

Reply to Office action of April 7, 2005

and Office Communication of Sept. 22, 2005

integrally formed in one exterior wall of the tube-shaped body, the pair of bosses being spaced-apart by one or more intervening stiffeners integrally formed in a diamond pattern with the bosses.”

Thus, the Office Action implies, and the Applicant agrees, that the above allowable subject matter of claim 19 is a patentable novelty which distinguishes the presently claimed invention over the cited prior art references.

The current amendments cause the above allowable subject matter of claim 19 to be incorporated into to both claims 16 and 21, whereby both claims 16 and 21 now include a patentable novelty that distinguishes claims 16 and 21 over the cited prior art references. Therefore, claims 16 and 21 are believed to allowable as incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 19.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 19 was found contain allowable subject matter and is currently rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 19 is now allowable.

Newly Presented Claims

Newly presented claim 29 substantially recites the subject matter deleted from currently amended independent claim 16.

Newly presented claim 29 is allowable as depending from allowable claim 16.

The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney:



Charles J. Rupnick

Registration No.: 43,068

Date: September 29, 2005

Post Office Address: PO Box 46752

Seattle, WA 98146

Telephone: (206) 439-7956

Facsimile: (206) 439-3223